

FRANCE

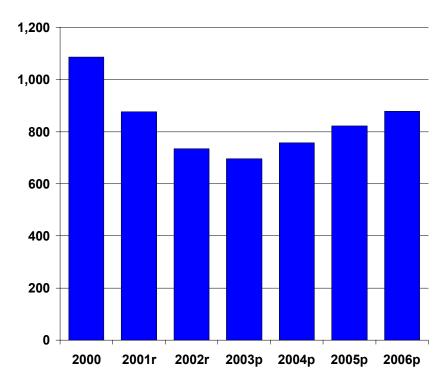
ECONOMIC NEWS

Growth lost momentum during the latter half of 2002 as consumer and business confidence weakened considerably. Recovery efforts appear stalled in early 2003, with conditions likely improving later in the year.

TOURISM NEWS

After three consecutive years of declines, U.S. arrivals from France should begin a modest recovery next year. However, arrivals will remain well below 2000 levels. In addition, the timing and strength of the recovery hinges on economic improvements.

France Travelers to the US



SOURCE: US Dept of Commerce, ITA, Office of Travel & Tourism Industries